

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 PC-04 MC-02 OMB-01 NEA-10

SY-10 USSS-00 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 HEW-08 A-01 SCA-01

NIC-01 DOTE-00 CU-04 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AGR-20 RSR-01 /198 W

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P R 171944Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5212

INFO DOD/DIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, ELAB, MILI

SUBJ: MILITARY BEGIN SEIZING TRUCKS

REF: SANTIAGO 3637

1. SUMMARY. MILITARY AUTHORITIES BEGAN REQUISITIONING STRIKING TRUCKS AUG 16. STRIKERS ARE RECEIVING PLEDGES OF SOLIDARITY FROM OTHER GUILDS AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES. SCATTERED TERRORIST INCIDENTS CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. MILITARY AUTHORITIES BEGAN REQUISITION OF TRUCKS IN PUENTE ALTO TRUCK PARK USED BY STRIKERS AUG 16. MOVING WITH GREAT CAUTION AND TACT, MILITARY SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH STRIKERS NOT TO MOVE TRUCKS YET AND TO ALLOW REPRESENTATIVES OF STRIKERS TO BE PRESENT AT ALL TIMES. COMMUNIST EL SIGLO REPORTED SIMILAR OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN BIO BIO AND ACONCAGUA PROVINCES. IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE WISHFUL THINKING, EL SIGLO REPORTED TRUCKERS WERE BEGINNING TO RETURN TO WORK IN VARIOUS AREAS AND STRIKE HAD BEEN "BROKEN."

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3. PRIOR TO DEADLINE, MINPUBLIC WORKS GEN. RUIZ HELD LAST MINUTE BUT UNSUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH LAND TRANSPORT CONFEDERATION LEADERS. SPOKESMAN JUAN JARA VOWED STRIKE WOULD CONTINUE AND TRUCKERS WOULD "DESTROY THEIR VEHICLES" IF SUBJECTED TO GOVT. REPRESSION. STRIKERS RECEIVED RAFT OF SOLIDARITY MESSAGES WARNING GOVT AGAINST USING FORCE AGAINST STRIKERS FROM OTHER GUILDS, PDC, AND PN. GOVT ISSUED REPLY TO PDC STATEMENT ACCUSING THAT PART OF "JOINING FORCES WITH THOSE GROUPS WHICH SEEK CONFRONTATION AND CIVIL WAR." UP PARLIAMENTARIANS CONTINUED TO CALL FOR STRONG ACTION AGAINST STRIKERS. AFTER AUG 16 CABINET MEETING, GOVT ISSUED STATEMENT, DEFENDING MILITARY AUTHORITIES, ESPECIALLY GEN

PRATS, FROM ALLEGED OPPOSITION ATTACKS AND NOTING THAT NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED DURING TRUCK REQUISITIONS A FEW HOURS EARLIER. STATEMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED GOVT WILL SEND BILL TO CONGRESS IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES ON TERRORISTS. SUBSEQUENTLY ON NATIONWIDE RADIO NETWORK, PRES. ALLENDE AGAIN STRESSED ECONOMIC DAMAGE CAUSED BY STRIKE AND REAFFIRMED GOVT POSITION THAT IT HAS COMPLIED WITH ALL OBLIGATIONS GROWING OUT OF LAST OCTOBER'S SHUTDOWN. FOLLOWING ALLENDE, GEN. RUIZ OUTLINED GOVT PROPOSALS TO TRUCKERS WHICH "UNFORTUNATELY" HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED.

4. IN OTHER STRIKE DEVELOPMENTS, TRUCKERS' WIVES SEIZED FIVE MORE RADIO STATIONS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS, BUT GOVT PROMPTLY CUT OFF ELECTRICITY TO STATIONS, THEREBY EFFECTIVELY SILENCING THEM. UP PRESS PRINTED TEXT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEN. RUIZ AND BUS INTERVENTOR GEN. BRADY IN WHICH NON-STRIKING DRIVERS WERE PROMISED VARIOUS BENEFITS. REFERRING TO BUS DRIVERS, GEN. BRADY TOLD REPORTERS: "I REALLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THESE PEOPLE ARE ON STRIKE." ALTHOUGH A FEW PRIVATE LINES ARE STILL RUNNING, SANTIAGO'S BUS SERVICE REMAINS ERRATIC AND INSUFFICIENT. GUILDS IN BIO BIO PROVINCE HAVE REPORTEDLY CEASED WORK, COMPLAINING PRINCIPALLY ABOUT FOOD AND FUEL SHORTAGES. BUSINESSES ALSO REPORTEDLY CLOSED IN RXO VOHER SOUTHERN PROVINCES (REFTEL). STORES ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY CLOSED IN PUNTA ARENAS. JUDGE ISSUED ARREST ORDER FOR UNDER SEC TRANSPORTATION JAIME FAIVOVICH ON OLD CONTEMPT OF COURT CHARGE STEMMING FROM HIS ACTIVITIES AS SANTIAGO PROVINCE INTENDENT. GOVT PLANNING AGENCY ODEPLAN ISSUED STATEMENT DETAILING ECONOMIC LOSSES CAUSED BY STRIKE (SEPTTEL). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM CONTINUE PN DEPUTY GERMAN RIESCO REPORTED SHOTS WERE FIRED AT HIM WHILE DRIVING IN LINARES PROVINCE. TWO FIREBOMBS WERE REPORTEDLY TOSSED AT SANTIAGO HOME OF FORMER MINING ORLANDO CANTUARIAS. IN SANTIAGO SUBURB OF LA CISTERNA, AIR FORCE PATROL ARRESTED FOUR PERSONS WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY THROWN DYNAMITE AT A GARAGE. CARABINERO CAPT. WHO INTERROGATED (AND TORTURED, ACCORDING TO UP PRESS) SUSPECT

JOSE RIQUELME IN ARAYA CASE WAS FORCED TO RETIRE. MINECONOMY
CADEMARTORI DENIED GOVT WILL REQUEST CONGRESS TO APPROVE A STATE OF
SIEGE.
DAVIS

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